



**Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
on Health and Human Services**

November 29, 2016



**Department of Health and Human Services
Rick Brajer, Secretary**





WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

OUR MISSION

In collaboration with our partners, DHHS provides essential services to improve the health, safety and well-being of all North Carolinians



Case Example

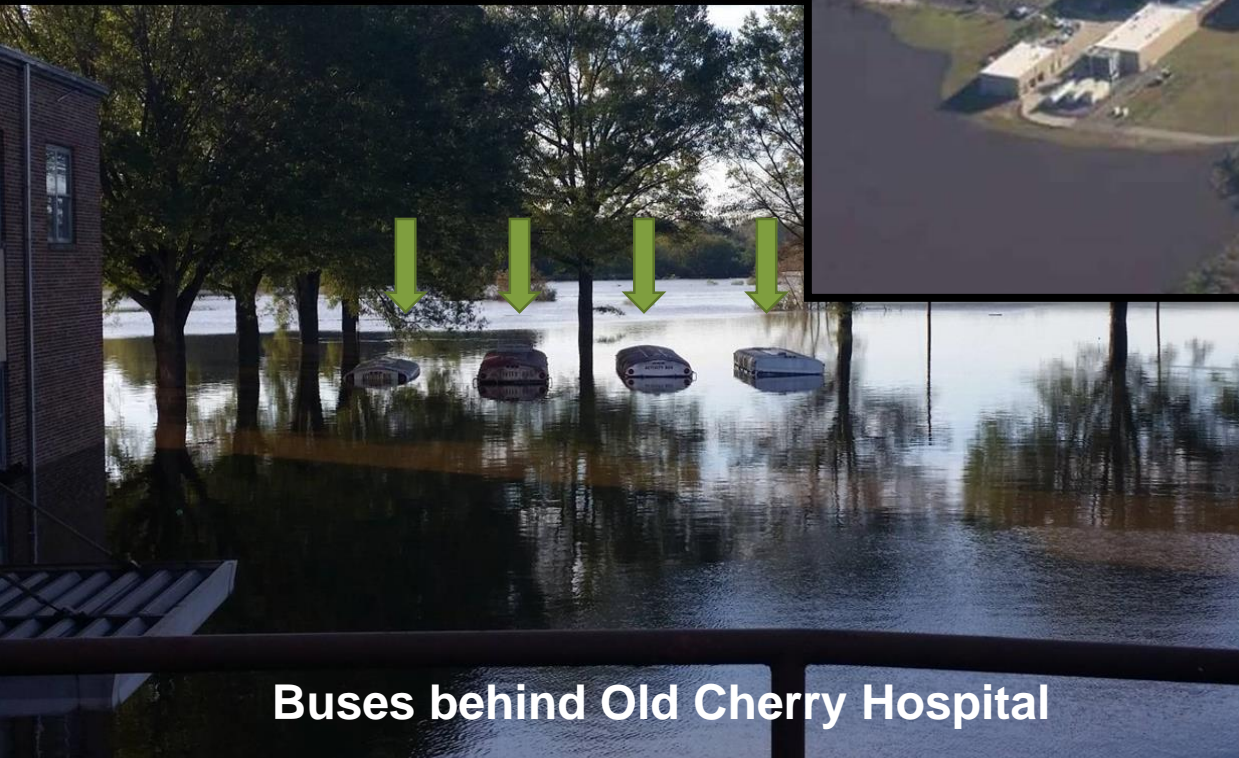
DHHS' role in Hurricane Matthew



All's well at new Cherry Hospital



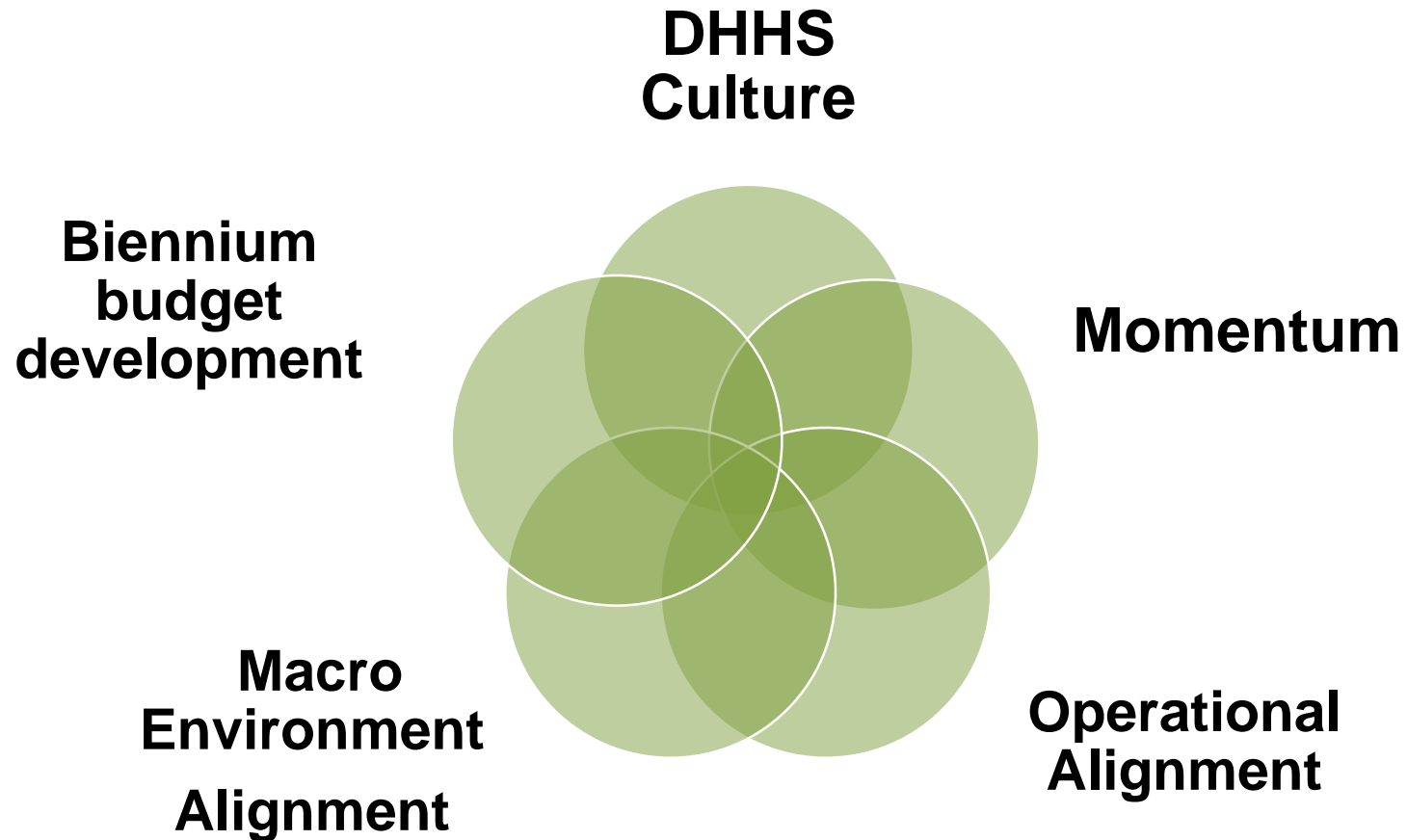
New Cherry Hospital



Buses behind Old Cherry Hospital





Our team's current focus



Child Welfare

Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Adoption

Situation

- Complexity of family challenges 
- Caseloads > service availability
- Lack of affordable housing  service accessibility
- Social work is a calling and a profession
- “Any family problem is seen as a child welfare problem”



Child Welfare

Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Adoption

Problem

- Limited training for CPS staff and supervisors
- Lack of community understanding of what qualifies as abuse/neglect
- Lengthy process for licensing/relicensing foster care homes
- Lack of resources, lack of understanding of families
- Lack of community resources from 18 months to Pre-K (missing from system)
- Long wait for services
- Funding \$ are inflexible
- Lack of connectivity between social services and gentrification/housing



Child Welfare

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Needs

- Further strengthen relationships between schools of social work & counties
- Increase staff and supervisor training capacity through state/county/university partnerships
- Increase investment in prevention - before birth and through “safe families”
- Strengthen community partnerships, especially schools, and provide training on proper definitions of abuse/neglect
- Evaluate new Medicaid services (Triple P; respite) and identify new community services for 18 month to Pre-K
- Engage in process redesign to significantly reduce time to licensing while ensuring families are properly vetted
- Support for workforce (social workers & foster parents) as ongoing retention strategy



Summary – Key Takeaways

- **Hurricane Matthew Response and Recovery**
 - Monumental effort in department working with counties to deliver more than \$87M in federal Food and Nutrition Services benefits
- **Mental Health Crisis Management**
 - Early data indicates Community Paramedicine Pilot Program reducing cost by ensuring individuals are sent to the appropriate level of care
- **Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Centers transition**
 - Although a challenging business strategy, continue to make significant headway toward becoming 100% receipt supported
- **Child Welfare Program Improvement Plan**
 - Momentum ongoing to improve child protective services, foster care and adoption
 - NC FAST: Project 4 Child Services will be operational Dec. 2017; will continue working closely with counties to ensure successful implementation

